



STILL IN THE RUNNING

Teams in the OMHA, ORHA and OHA are quickly being eliminated until now there remains only a few local squads in the running. In OHA the Stouffville Clippers are still very much in the hockey limelight as they battle Leaside for the group honors. In ORHA Markham Eagles and Alliston meet this week with the winner to take on either Halliburton or Sutton. Brougham continues in the rural running also. In OMHA, Unionville Rockets take on Elmira for the Midget 'B' championship. Newmarket Smoke Rings dropped by the wayside on Saturday as they lost out to Brampton in a total goal series. Unionville Jets have hung up their skates following a valiant effort against the powerful Weston Dukes in the OHA Jr. 'B' groupings. In another two or three weeks only the best will remain, the rest will all be hockey history.

TED TOPPING, AN (OFFICIAL) RESIDENT OF STOUFFVILLE

In December, Ted Topping moved from his home in Toronto to the Timbers subdivision west of Stouffville where he now resides. Since his arrival here, he has been actively engaged in officiating at OHA and OMHA games. Viewers of TV have probably seen this genial Stouffville resident in action while he officiates at Jr. 'A' contests in Maple Leaf Gardens.

Ted first donned the white sweater and carried the tin whistle in 1947 as an official for the Toronto Hockey League. He was then given active duty with the T.H.L. Major League before moving up into the OHA ranks in 1950. During the past four seasons he has had many interesting and exciting hockey experiences. He tells of one stormy night he and another official were forced to drive from Toronto to Brampton with their heads out the window in order to keep their vehicle on the road.

Ted points out that officiating before a huge crowd has no effect on his calling of plays. He says he feels just as much at home on the ice before 10,000 fans as 100. The warm temperature of the Gardens makes it extremely hard for officials to work a game. Ted claims that following a speedy Jr. 'A' contest his clothing is often wringing wet with perspiration.

In commenting on a comparison between Jr. 'A' hockey and Sr. 'B', Ted states that he believes the Stouffville Clippers would probably defeat an average Jr. 'A' club such as St. Michael's. The Seniors would be able to use their excess weight to advantage but the Juniors would out-hustle the Sr. in 60 minutes of wide-open play.

During his four years of officiating in Maple Leaf Gardens, Ted is of the opinion that any official can quite handily pick out players that are bound to make a spot on future N.H.L. teams. Henri Richard is Ted's idea of an almost perfect Jr. 'A' star.

During the war years, Ted was stationed at Ottawa and later went overseas with an RCAF Lancaster bomber unit. He held the rank of Flying Officer. Jack Padgett of Claremont and now a resident of Markham served in the same group. Ted is married and has one son, Teddy Jr. His wife is also a skating enthusiast and previously belonged to a figure skating club in Leaside. He is a traveller for A. Bradshaw and Son, manufacturers and distributors of dry goods.

COMMUNITY LEAGUE HOCKEY A RISKY BUSINESS

A good deal of promotion and publicity is being devoted to the organization of a Trolley League when another hockey season rolls around. Markham, Sutton, Woodbridge, Bradford and Newmarket appear interested in such a setup. As far as Stouffville is concerned, to replace Sr. 'B' hockey with a community league, trolley league, etc., sounds like risky business. One can understand why such an organization would be well come in towns like Markham and Newmarket. The OHA has not proved to be a crowd-drawer in Markham and in Newmarket the Canatlow citizens appeared soured on the OHA for their harsh treatment of the Spits during the current season. This season a torrid seven team community league group was formed in the Uxbridge - Port Perry League and the clubs involved will be fortunate if they regain their entry fee. There was a day when such leagues would pack local arenas but it seems that times have changed. Two years ago a similar group was formed in Stouffville which included Brougham, Peaches, Port Perry, Greenbank and at that time there were many who predicted that such a league would out-draw the Clippers. The result was that the players were forced to pay money out of their own pockets in order to buy the ice time. Any outlaw league not connected with the OHA is treading on dangerous ground in your reporter's opinion. Certainly I have always been in favor of giving home-brew hockey players an opportunity of playing the game but there are not enough high calibre players in Stouffville at the present time to warrant a crowd-pleasing performance. Stouffville has come to respect the ability of OHA Sr. 'B' puck artists and for this town to drop back into bush league hockey would be a let-down for the fans who two years ago followed the Clippers through to a Sr. championship. Stouffville and its \$75,000 arena cannot afford to risk a season without this type of hockey. It's true that so far this season the crowds at Clipper games have been below average, but increased attendance is expected now that the Stouffville club is in the playoffs. Other towns such as Markham, Sutton, Newmarket, etc., must remember that although there are actually not many Stouffville resident players on the Clipper roster, the majority of names in the lineup have been connected with hockey in this district for a number of years and are familiar figures in town both in summer and winter. Stouffville Clippers today are in the same situation as the Markham Millionaires were a few years ago. The residents follow a club year after year and they are the focal point of interest from one season to another, but should there ever come a break and the team fold up then hockey interest is walking on thin ice and may suffer a setback from which it may never recover. Sr. 'B' hockey is Stouffville's hockey, we can't let it slip through our fingers.

Clippers Win Semi-Final Series From Flyers

Stouffville Clippers earned the right to enter the Sr. 'B' group finals on Saturday night as they swamped the Ravina Flyers 7-2. They will meet Leaside in a best four-out-of-seven series for the metropolitan title. The second and third games will be played in Stouffville on Wednesday and Saturday of this week.

The Bangay, Webster, Stark line was the main driving force for the winners with the two combining for three of the local tallies. Bangay garnered all three of the lines' goals. Gilson, Minton and Haddleton and Joe Scattolon were the other Clipper marksmen.

The Stouffville crew poired to the attack in the opening minutes and piled up a comfortable lead. Rhodes in the Clipper net had a comparatively easy night as his defence and back-checking forwards gave him good protection. In the final ten minutes of the contest, Stouffville ran into a flood of penalties and the balance of the game was played with one or two men in the cooler. McNeil, hard-working Clipper centre star turned in a sensational penalty-killing performance as he forechecked the Flyers to a standstill.

CLIPPERS 8, RAVINA 5

Stouffville Clippers took a one game lead in their best of seven group semi-final series on Wednesday night as they whipped Ravina Flyers 8-5 in overtime. It was one of the most exciting and best played contests of the season. The winners teamed up to score four goals in the ten minute overtime session while the visitors could notch only one. Hal Gibson was the top performer for the Clippers with 3 goals and one assist. Geo. Stark, Nick Bangay, Joe Scattolon, Ronnie Bell and Gordie Haddleton were the other Stouffville marksmen. Byron McAllister with two, Eddie Crust, Al Battersby and Bob Battersby scored the Ravina tallies. Jack Shropshire of Weston and Loring Doolittle of Aurora were the officials.

In the first minute of the game, Fraser Scott of Ravina was banished for slashing and although the Clipper attackers came close they could not push the rubber past May in the Flyers' cage. Hardly had the teams returned to even strength when Stouffville defenceman Don McIntosh was penalized for interference. The Clipper penalty-killers did a fine job of beating back the Ravina offensive thrusts and no damage was done while the locals were a man short. Ken McNeil, Stouffville's hard-working ex-Unionville Jr. turned in his usual fine effort. He is fast becoming the Clippers most potent forechecker.

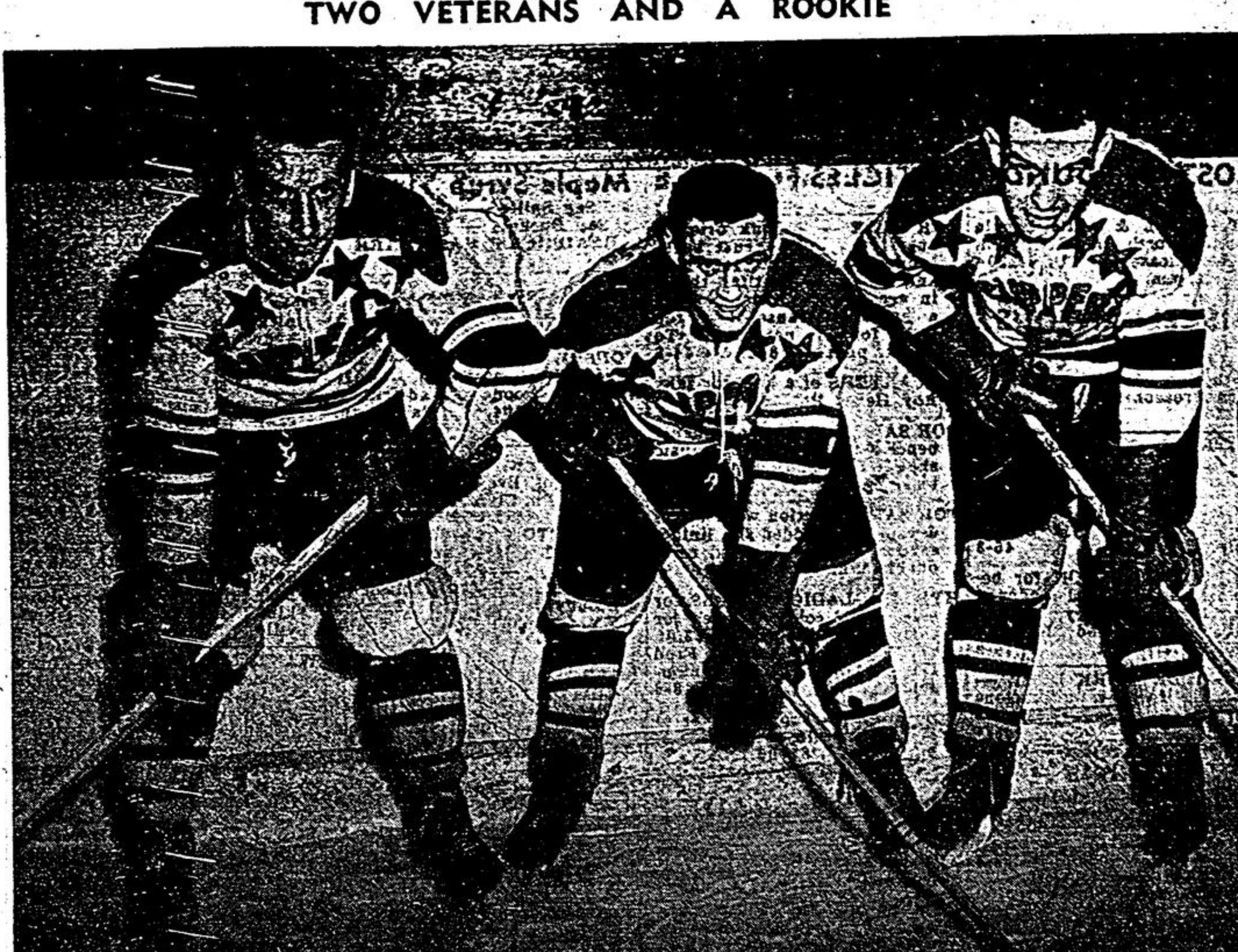
At 7:33 Ronnie Bell put Stouffville in the lead when he whacked in his own rebound after Hal Gibson had bounced the rubber off the goaltenders' pads on the first scoring attempt. Ravina tied the score five minutes later with the Battersby brothers teaming up for the visitors first tally.

Stouffville took a two goal lead early in the second frame as the Gibson, Haddleton, Small line put on terrific pressure. Gibson counted his second goal of the game when he fired the rubber into the open net while Haddleton was crawling over the prostrate Ravina goaltender. Haddleton made it 3-1 ten seconds later when he broke free from the blueline and made no mistake with his close-in drive.

With defenceman Joe Scattolon and centre Polly Minton serving penalties, Byron McAllister combined with Fraser Scott to cut down the Clipper margin.

The third period saw Ravina outscore the Clippers 2-1 and extend the contest into overtime. Nick Bangay made it 4-2 on a clean cut breakaway but Ravina stormed back to tie the count with two fast goals. Eddie Crust and Byron McAllister counted twice only seventeen seconds apart.

In the overtime session, Stouffville took the lead on Gibson's goal and Geo. Stark made it 6-1 from McIntosh and Bangay. Ravina moved back into the runnings at 17:06 when A. Battersby tricked goalie Rhodes clearly on a neat effort. In the dying minutes of the contest, defenceman Joe Scattolon roared down the left wing and blinked the light with a low drive and Gibson sewed the contest up from Webster with but ten seconds remaining in the game. There were thirteen penalties, seven to Stouffville and six to Ravina.



One of the new faces added to the Stouffville Clipper lineup this season is that of centreman Ken McNeil (centre). On either side is Ron Bell (rt.) and Hal Gibson (left). McNeil is the youngest player on the club and performed in 1952-53 for the Unionville Jets, then moved up to Senior company. He is an ardent forechecker and is noted for his penalty-killing ability. Ron Bell has been a regular with the Clippers since 1951 and prior to this was with the Galt Juniors and Markham Millionaires. Besides possessing a bullet shot, Ronnie is also a clever stick handler. Hal Gibson, now a resident in Stouffville, is noted for his speed and shifty shot. He is able to switch hands while speeding up the ice and can shoot either right or left.

Clippers Defeat Leaside In Group Final Opener

Stouffville Clippers took a one game lead in their best-of-seven Metro group finals on Monday night as they handed Leaside a 5-3 setback. The second and third games are scheduled for Stouffville on Wednesday and Saturday nights.

The Clippers jumped into the driver's seat at 6:13 of the first period as Ronnie Bell blinked the light from Stephenson and Melville. Elwood Small made it 2-0 twenty-three seconds later on a pass from defenceman Bert Baker. Jim Casburn and Gordie Boniface each connected with singles midway through the period to put both clubs on even terms.

Leaside took a one goal lead at the nine minute mark of the second frame with Kenny Sinclair beating Eatough unassisted. For the remainder of the contest it was all Stouffville in the scoring department. Elwood Small added his second tally to deadlock the score at 10:20 and hard-working centre Kenny McNeil scored a few seconds later from Lewis to put the Clippers in the lead to stay. Hal Gibson picked up his fifth scoring point in two games for the only goal of the final period.

Unionville Meets Elmira for Midget Championship

Grant Nighswander's Midget B semi-finalists will meet Elmira for the OMHA championship this week. Elmira, home of the famous Polar Kings, snowed under Goderich in their two game series to earn the right to move into the finals. Unionville eliminated Thorold.

Brougham Knocks Newcastle from Rural Playoffs

After dropping their first contest to Newcastle, Brougham rallied on Wednesday night of last week to soundly trounce the eastern crew 8-3 in the Whitby arena and on Monday night they eliminated their rivals by the score of 4-2 in the Bowmanville arena. Lloyd Pascoe and Wilnot Gates were the standout performers for Don Beer's squad, each scoring twice. Close to 200 fans were on hand for the game.

Brougham now journey to Galt on Saturday night of this week where they will meet either Troy or Sheffield. The return match is scheduled for the Whitby Arena on Wednesday night of next week. Two more teams remain in the running.

Rangers Lead In Peewee NHL

The New York Rangers, coached by Bill Lennox, moved out front in the Lions Peewee round-robin playoffs as they edged Canadiens 4-3 on Saturday afternoon. Ron Stewart, second line speedster for the Rangers, turned in a sensational performance. He scored one goal and assisted on another. Don Neal, Wayne Pennanen and Dean Evans were the other New York marksmen. Don Tran, Bob Todd and Mike Epworth scored for the Canadiens. In the dying seconds of the game, Holden in the Montreal cage, was taken off in favor of an extra forward and, although the Canadiens had numerous chances to tie up the contest they failed to put the puck past Abraham in the Ranger net.

In the other games, the Leafs and Hawks battled to a 1-1 draw while the Bruins tied the powerful Red Wings 3-3. Norm Hendricks counted the lone Leaf tally while Gary Taylor scored for the Hawks. The Detroit scores were divided between Don Haynes, Don McCullough and Malcolm Bell. Next Saturday the Wings will play New York in the opener while the Leafs and Bruins battle in the second contest. Canadiens and Hawks will complete the hockey activity for the afternoon.

LIONS N.H.L. STANDINGS

	W.	L.	T.	Pts.
Rangers	1	0	0	2
Hawks	0	0	1	1
Leafs	0	0	1	1
Red Wings	0	0	1	1
Bruins	0	0	1	1
Canadiens	0	0	0	0

RESULTS

Rangers 4, Canadiens 3  
Leafs 1, Hawks 1  
Bruins 3, Red Wings 3

Tod Lintner Loses Eye

Tod Lintner, high-scoring member of the Port Hope Intermediate hockey club sustained the loss of an eye on Wednesday night of last week when he was accidentally hit by a hockey stick wielded by Morley Davis of Lindsay. The injury occurred during a title contest being played between Port Hope and Lindsay of the Lakeshore League. Lintner was rushed to the Oshawa General Hospital where the operation was performed.

Tod Lintner and his brother Ron played with Brooklyn in the Uxbridge-Port Perry League but joined Port Hope midway through the season. The injured player was also on the Whitby Junior 'C' team that eliminated Stouffville from the Junior competition a few years back.

CLIPPER PLAYOFF POINT SCORERS

	G.	A.	Pts.
Haddleton	4	6	10
Bangay	6	3	9
Stark	3	5	8
Webster	0	8	8
Stephenson	3	5	8
Gibson	5	2	7
Minton	2	3	5
Lewis	1	3	4
Bell	3	1	4
Small	2	2	4
McNeil	2	1	3
Baker	1	2	3
Scattolon	1	1	2
Junkin	1	1	2
Melville	0	2	2
McIntosh	0	1	1

**Reserved Seats . . .**  
for Skating Club Carnival  
FRIDAY, APRIL 2ND

Reserved tickets \$1.00 on sale Monday at the Arena, O'Neil's, Carload, A. E. Weldon's and The Tribune.

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**SENIOR 'B' OHA GROUP FINALS**  
LEASIDE vs. STOUFFVILLE CLIPPERS  
Wednesday, March 17

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— Third Game of Series —  
LEASIDE vs. STOUFFVILLE CLIPPERS  
Saturday, March 20

**Stouffville Arena**

**St. Patrick's DANCE**

to be held on  
**Friday, Mar. 19**

in the  
**Veteran's Hall STOUFFVILLE**

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**DRAW FOR 1954 PONTIAC and TV Set**

— Admission \$1.00 Per Person —